

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6 of the specification as follows:

Use of silicon carbide is compatible with existing light-water reactors, thermally, chemically and neutronically. New reactor systems, therefore, do not have to be created in order to utilize a fuel containing silicon carbide. The thermal conductivity of silicon carbide is high so that substantial increases in overall fuel thermal conductivity can be achieved with only a small decrease in the density of uranium atoms. As an example, an increase in the thermal conductivity of 50 percent is expected for a 10 percent volume loading of silicon carbide.